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PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY SURVEYOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956



HEALTH
21 OCT 57
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MANSION HOUSE,
PENRITH,
August, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Penrith Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the health of the community for the year 1956.

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, showed a slight drop as compared with the previous year, the figure of 11,480 being 20 less than in 1955.

The corrected birth rate was 17.5 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 16.2 in 1955. The rate for England and Wales and the Administrative County of Cumberland in 1956 was 15.7 and 16.9 respectively.

The corrected Death rate of 10.5 per 1,000 was very satisfactory, showing a distinct fall over the rate of 12.2 in 1955 and compared favourably with a rate of 11.7 for England and Wales and 12.2 for the County of Cumberland.

The Infantile Mortality rate increased to 30.7 per 1,000 live births, compared with 22.3 in 1955 and 17.4 in 1954. The rates for England and Wales and the County of Cumberland were 23.8 and 30.4 respectively. Infantile Mortality rates do vary very considerably from year to year in areas of small populations.

Notifications of infectious diseases were particularly low during the year due to the almost complete absence of Measles—only one case being notified, and there were no cases of Scarlet Fever.

Two small localised outbreaks of notifiable disease occurred—one of Dysentery and the other Food Poisoning, and these are described in more detail within the body of this report.

Again it is pleasing to report that no case of Diphtheria was recorded, this being the twelfth successive year without a case.

It is disappointing to report that no progress was made during 1956 with regard to new sewerage schemes. At the time of writing this report, however, it would seem that at last High Hesket, along with Low Hesket, can look forward to the installation of modern sanitation and possibly augmentation of their water supply.

Details of housing progress and water supplies, etc. are given by the Surveyor within the body of this report.

I would again express my sincere thanks to the staff of the Health Department and to other members of the Council Staff for their valuable help and co-operation.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and encouragement.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K. J. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (in acres)	..	..	..	181,531
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	3,591
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£90,861
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	£362	17s. 0d.
Registrar General's estimate of the population	..			11,480

It will be noted that there has been a considerable increase in the Rateable Value of the district with the result that a Penny Rate brings in over £362 as against £214 in 1955.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population shows a fall of 20 compared with the figure of 11,500 in 1955.

Dairy farming and Agricultural pursuits continue to form the main industries of the district.

Paper Mills, Lime Works and Quarries are additional sources of employment, and there was no unemployment during 1956.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births	Males	Females	Total	
(a) Live Births:—				
Legitimate	95	98	193	
Illegitimate	-	2	2	
	—	—	—	
	95	100	195	
	—	—	—	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	..			16.9
Birth Rate corrected by comparability factor	..	..	..	17.5
(b) Still Births:—				
Legitimate	2	3	5	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
			—	
			5	
			—	
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)				25.0

Deaths	Males	Females	Total	
Deaths, all ages ..	61	59	120	
Death Rate per 1,000 of population		..	..	10.5
Death Rate corrected by comparability factor			..	10.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes..		..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate		..	..	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year:—				
All Infants per 1,000 live births		..	..	30.7
There were no deaths of Illegitimate Infants.				
Deaths from:—				
Cancer .. .. .	..	..	..	16
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ..			..	Nil

Table showing the Vital Statistics for England and Wales and certain groups in the County of Cumberland for 1956:—

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.7	11.7	23.8
Administrative County of Cumberland ..	16.9	12.2	30.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	17.5	12.3	32.5
Rural Districts of Cumberland	16.5	12.1	29.0
Rural District of Penrith (crude rate) ..	16.9	10.5	30.7
Corrected by Comparability factor ..	17.5	10.5	30.7

Infantile Mortality.

There were six deaths of Infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 30.7 per 1,000 live births.

This figure is considerably greater than the rate of 22.3 in 1955 but should not cause undue alarm. In the past 10 years Infantile Mortality rates have varied from 58.5 in 1946 to 11.3 in 1950 with considerable fluctuation from year to year (see Table). Such variations must be expected when considering such small numbers.

The details of Infant deaths are as follows:—

1. Boy born in City Maternity Hospital and died there within three hours of birth of Birth Injury and Prematurity.
2. Boy born and died in Maternity Home within 30 minutes of birth, of Atelectasis (condition of non-expansion of lungs).
3. Boy born and died in City Maternity Hospital, aged 30 minutes, cause of death being extreme Prematurity.
4. Boy born and died in City Maternity Hospital within 5 minutes of birth of Prematurity.
5. Girl born in Hospital and died in City Maternity Hospital of Prematurity, aged 3 days.
6. Girl born at home and died at home of Broncho-pneumonia, aged 2 months.

PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT RATES, 1946-1956.

Year	Population	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Total Infantile Deaths	Infantile Mortality Rate	England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate
1946	11,490	12.0	16.4	11	58.5	42.9
1947	11,580	12.3	20.2	6	25.6	41.4
1948	11,550	11.0	17.8	9	43.7	34.0
1949	11,610	11.3	17.4	5	19.8	32.0
1950	11,450	10.0	16.6	2	11.3	29.8
1951	11,500	12.4	16.9	5	27.5	29.6
1952	11,510	10.3	19.3	8	36.0	27.6
1953	11,450	10.1	16.4	6	31.9	26.8
1954	11,490	10.8	15.5	3	17.4	25.5
1955	11,500	12.3	16.2	4	22.3	24.9
1956	11,480	10.5	17.5	6	30.7	23.8

Maternal Mortality.

No Puerperal or Maternal death was recorded during the year, this being the thirteenth successive year without such a death.

Cancer Mortality.

According to the Registrar General's figures, there were 16 Cancer deaths in 1956, 7 males and 9 females, compared with a total of 23 in 1955. This gives a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 of the population and equals 13.3% of all deaths. These rates are a little less than in 1955 and still remain below the national figures.

The average age for male Cancer deaths was 72 years, while that for females was 60 years. The marked difference in the sexes is due to the fact that two deaths in the female group occurred at 13 years and 26 years of age respectively.

It will be noted that two deaths were due to Cancer of the Lungs—no such death occurred in 1955.

Location of Disease					Males	Females
Oesophagus	..	..	..	..	1	1
Stomach	..	..	..	..	2	1
Large Bowel	..	..	..	..	1	1
Liver	..	..	..	..	1	—
Uterus	..	..	..	..	—	1
Bladder	..	..	..	..	—	1
Kidney	..	..	..	..	—	1
Lung and Bronchus	..	..	..	..	2	—
Other Sites	..	..	..	..	—	3
					—	—
Total					7	9
					—	—

Deaths from All Causes.

The total number of deaths recorded in 1956 was 120 compared with 153 in 1955, giving a crude death rate of 10.5 per 1,000 of the population.

As the comparability factor for 1956 was 1, the corrected death rate remains at 10.5, but even so it is still well below the corrected rate of 12.3, recorded in 1955, and compares favourably with the England and Wales rate of 11.7 and the rate of 12.2 for the County of Cumberland.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System accounted, as always, for the greatest number of deaths—a total of 50—representing 41.7% of all deaths. This showed a slight increase over the figure of 39% in 1955.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, *i.e.* Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis, accounted for 18 deaths, equal to 15% of all deaths, and was a decided fall over previous years.

Deaths from Cancer totalled 16, equal to 13.3% of all deaths and much the same as the 1955 figure.

Diseases of the Respiratory System, excluding Tuberculosis, accounted for 10 deaths, equal to 8.3% of all deaths. This was an increase over the 1955 figure of 5.9%.

Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents totalled 4, the same as in 1955, but, expressed as a percentage of total deaths, showed an increase from 2.6% to 3.3%.

All other Accident Deaths dropped from 3 to 1.

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar General, 1956.

					Males.	Females.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	..	..	..	-	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis (Other)	..	..	..	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	1	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	-	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	-	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	-	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	..	..	..	2	1	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	2	-	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	..	..	..	-	-	-
13.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	..	..	..	-	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	3	5	8
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	-	2	2
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	-	-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	9	9	18
18.	Coronary Disease—Angina	..	..	..	14	9	23
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	1	1	2
20.	Other Heart Diseases	..	..	..	10	12	22
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	1	2	3
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	1	4	5
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	1	2	3
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	1	-	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	3	-	3
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	..	..	..	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	-	1	1
32.	Other defined and Ill-defined Diseases	..	..	..	6	4	10
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	1	3	4
34.	All Other Accidents	..	..	..	1	-	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	..	..	..	1	-	1
All Causes					61	59	120

Age Group at Death of All Cases, 1956.

Age Group	Under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 to 69	70 to 74	75 to 79	80 and over	Total
Males	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	3	3	2	2	5	14	14	10	61
Females	2	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	5	10	14	15	59
∞																			
Total	6	2	-	2	-	2	1	-	3	-	3	5	2	7	10	24	28	25	120

NOTE:—72.5% of total deaths occurred in age groups of 65 years and over.

44% of total deaths occurred in age groups of 75 years and over.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(i) **Public Health Department Staff.**

K. J. Thomson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M., Part time Medical Officer of Health.

J. A. Sedgwick, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Surveyor and Chief Public Health Officer.

E. A. Burne, M.Inst.R.A., Architect and Housing Officer.

D. Wood, Assistant in Health and Housing Department.

H. Baildon, General Assistant in Health Department.

D. W. Hammersley, General Assistant in Health Department.

Miss I. Coulston, Clerk in Public Health Department.

(ii) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The Public Health Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, under the combined direction of Dr. J. Steven Faulds and Dr. D. G. Davies, provides a most adequate and comprehensive service. Again I would express my sincere thanks to these Consultants and their Staff for much valuable advice and co-operation, given so freely during the year.

(iii) **Hospital and Ambulance Services.**

The arrangement, as described in previous reports, remained in force during the year without any change.

(iv) **Nursing in the Home.**

In the Penrith Rural Area there are eight District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitors, each having their own area of responsibility.

Home Helps numbered six, one less than in 1955. In a scattered rural area, it is difficult to obtain sufficient women of the right type to take up this work. A home help can be of great benefit where the Mother of a family is temporarily ill, either at home or in Hospital. Home Helps can also render most useful service in the homes of the elderly.

Notification of Infectious Diseases—1956 in Age Groups.

Diseases.	Ages.													T	AH	D
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
Measles	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	2	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	3	2	1	12	25	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	1	1	6	2	1	3	2	1	1	-	19	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	8	-	-
TOTALS	2	2	3	3	5	11	8	1	9	6	6	3	12	71	-	-

Key :—

- T - Total.
- AH - Admitted to Isolation Hospital.
- D - Deaths.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious diseases was particularly low during 1956, there being only 71 notifications as against 235 in 1955 and 183 in 1954.

The marked diminution in numbers was due to the almost complete absence of measles in the area, and no case of scarlet fever was recorded.

Measles.

Only one notification of this disease was received, although it is possible that other cases did occur, but, being so mild, no doctor had been called in.

Whooping Cough.

Fourteen cases were notified, compared with forty in 1955. The majority of cases occurred in the age group under five. To my knowledge no case was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths. All cases occurred during the last three months of the year and were mainly in the Great Salkeld area.

Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia.

Twenty-five cases occurred as compared with seven in 1955. Of the total notified, nine were recorded as Influenzal Pneumonia and most of these occurred in elderly people. No case was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths, although it will be noted in the Registrar General's figures that five deaths were recorded, but these were due to non-notifiable forms of pneumonia.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Only one case of this condition was notified and, as this was very mild, no hospital treatment was necessary.

Erysipelas.

Three cases were notified. All occurred in middle aged people and were of a mild type.

Smallpox.

No case of smallpox or known contact occurred in the district.

Owing to the great increase in air travel, the danger of imported smallpox has greatly increased in recent years. It is, therefore, unfortunate that smallpox vaccination in this country remains at a low level.

The following table gives particulars of smallpox vaccinations carried out in the Penrith Rural Area during 1956:—

VACCINATIONS AGAINST SMALLPOX.						
	-1	1	2-4	5-14	15 +	Total
Penrith Rural	<hr/>					
Primary	96	—	3	—	4	103
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	1	7	8

Poliomyelitis.

No case occurred during the year despite the fact that there was a fairly serious outbreak in West Cumberland.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Early in 1956 the Minister of Health requested Local Health Authorities to arrange for the registration of children in certain age groups, in anticipation of limited supplies of vaccine being available for protection against this disease. The response to this offer was rather disappointing generally, and in Cumberland County less than 10% of the children within the age groups were registered.

Owing to the very limited supply of vaccine initially issued to each Authority, only a small proportion of those registered were vaccinated, but it was hoped the remainder would be dealt with when further supplies of vaccine became available. It is regretted that no second supply was forthcoming before the end of 1956.

In the Penrith Rural Area fifty children were vaccinated, each receiving two injections at monthly intervals.

Diphtheria.

For the twelfth successive year, no case of Diphtheria occurred in the area, and it is now fourteen years since the last death from this disease was recorded.

As pointed out in other reports, this freedom from Diphtheria is entirely due to the preventive work of the Immunisation Campaign initiated in 1940. The absence of this dread disease in the community tends to produce a false sense of security amongst parents who think there is no need to have their children immunised. This is entirely wrong and every effort must be made to maintain a high rate of immunisation.

During 1956 the following number of children were immunised in the Penrith Rural Area:—

Primary Immunisations—all ages ..	174
Reinforcement or Booster Injections	338

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS, 1944–1956.

Year.	ENGLAND & WALES.		PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT.	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1944	23,199	934	4	-
1945	18,596	722	-	-
1946	11,986	472	-	-
1947	5,609	244	-	-
1948	3,575	156	-	-
1949	1,890	84	-	-
1950	962	49	-	-
1951	664	33	-	-
1952	376	32	-	-
1953	266	23	-	-
1954	173	9	-	-
1955	155	13	-	-
1956 (Provisional)	51	8	-	-

Dysentery.

Nineteen cases were notified compared with eighteen in 1955, and all were confirmed bacteriologically as due to the Sonnei type of organism. No case was admitted to hospital and, except for four young children who had fairly acute symptoms, none were seriously ill.

Seventeen cases related to a localised outbreak in the Greystoke area which occurred towards the end of June and beginning of July.

On the 23rd June, a Saturday, I learned quite fortuitously that a number of children attending Greystoke School had been affected with sickness and diarrhoea during the previous fortnight. I visited the school on Monday, 25th June, and as a result of enquiries there and by visiting eight households

of the children who were absent, it was found that six were suffering from Dysentery. I also discovered a boy in school with suggestive symptoms. He was sent home and subsequently found to be infected also. In addition, the Infant Teacher, who had been absent for several days, was found to be suffering from the same infection.

Immediate steps were taken to limit the spread of infection. Talks were given to each class on personal hygiene, paper towels were issued and strict instructions issued to the Caretaker regarding daily disinfection of lavatory seats, door handles, etc. Daily visits were paid to the school and close contact maintained with the general Practitioners. The willing co-operation of these Doctors, as well as that of the Head Teacher, was greatly appreciated and, in no small way, contributed to the control of the outbreak.

Of the seventeen cases, eight referred to school children, three to pre-school children and six to adults. It is interesting to report that after precautionary measures were introduced on 25th June, only one new case occurred in a school child. The young children and adults subsequently notified were infected from cases already excluded from school.

The other two cases occurred in female adults, one in March and the other in June. The latter case was possibly infected by a visiting relative who gave a history of dysentery prior to her visit and had certainly no connection with the Greystoke outbreak.

Food Poisoning.

Eight cases were notified and confirmed bacteriologically to be due to the *Salmonella Typhimurium* organism. All were treated at home. Five were adults and three children, the latter taking $2\frac{1}{2}$ –3 months before being considered free of infection.

The first case concerned a farmer's wife who had undoubtedly been infected from calves. Following on receipt of this notification, I visited the farm and in the course of investigation found that the farmer had lost eleven out of twenty calves he had recently bought. Four days prior to the wife taking ill, it was verified that the calves had died of acute enteritis due to *Salmonella-typhimurium* infection. Rectal swabs taken from the remaining calves were all positive to the same organism. The farmer's wife was responsible for the feeding of the calves and thus in close contact with a source of infection.

Strangely enough a month later, a localised outbreak of food poisoning, due to the same organism, involving three adults and three children, occurred in a hamlet, having no connection with the above farm.

Investigation suggested milk as a source of common infection and I soon discovered that a cow, from the farm supplying this milk, had recently suffered from acute enteritis. A rectal swab, taken from the animal, was positive to *Salmonella*-typhimurium organism.

Considering that this farm produced over 100 gallons of milk daily, it seemed strange that the outbreak was not more widespread. I think the explanation lay in the fact that the infected cow was the last in the herd to be milked, and it was this milk which was supplied to the local inhabitants.

On discovering the possible source of infection, the cow with its immediate neighbours, was isolated and a fuller investigation and examination of the whole herd and farm staff carried out. Pending the result of these tests, a notice was served on the farmer in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, prohibiting the sale of milk unless previously heat treated.

The eighth case was that of a man, originally notified as suffering from Dysentery but who, on further investigation, proved to be infected with the *Salmonella*-typhimurium organism. On enquiry it was found that the source of infection was from a neighbouring county, where he was employed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases added to the Register and of Tuberculosis deaths during the year:—

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—4 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 years ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—64 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	6	1	—	2	—	1	—	—

Of the nine new cases added to the Register one related to an inward transfer case, *i.e.*, a case previously notified in another area, and two were discovered through the Mass Radiography Unit. Three cases were removed from the Register; two left the district and one died during the year.

The death rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) was equal to 0.08 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 0.12 for England and Wales.

Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1956.

Males.		Females.		Total.
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary.	
26	4	25	10	65

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit paid visits to Langwathby, Lazonby and Penrith during February and March, 1956. A total of 239 of the general public attended the sessions held at Langwathby and Lazonby, when two active cases of the disease were discovered as well as eight non-tuberculosis conditions requiring further investigation. A total of 2,173 attended the sessions held in Penrith and undoubtedly this number would include many who resided in the Rural Area.

It is again disappointing to report that the general public is not making full use of this important service.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In 1955 the County Council, as the responsible Health Authority, initiated a scheme of vaccination as an additional weapon in the fight against Tuberculosis.

At the present time B.C.G. vaccination is available only to school children in the age group 13–14 years (apart from home contacts of cases of Tuberculosis, Nurses and Medical Students).

Parental consent having been obtained, the children in the above age group are X-rayed by the Mobile Mass Radiography Unit. This is followed by the School Medical Officer Mantoux testing all with satisfactory X-ray reports with subsequent B.C.G. vaccination of all negative reactors.

The following tables give details of the work carried out in the Penrith Rural Area under this scheme:—

Scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination for 13/14 Year Age Group (1942) Mass Miniature Radiography.

Penrith Rural District Schools Visited.	Total number of children in 1942 age group as shown on Nom. Roll.	Total number of children in 1942 age group who had M.M.R. Report.	Total number of consents given for B.C.G. Vaccination.	Total number of children in 1942 age group with satisfactory M.M.R. Report.	Total number of children in 1942 age group with unsatisfactory M.M.R. Report and recalled for Large Film.
Mungrisdale ..	1	1	1	1	—
Matterdale ..	1	1	1	1	—
Greystoke ..	4	3	3	3	—
Newbiggin ..	2	2	2	2	—
Penruddock ..	7	6	5	6	—
Lazonby ..	28	20	22	20	—
Culgaith ..	10	7	9	7	—
Calthwaite ..	4	3	2	3	—
High Hesket ..	10	10	10	9	1
Ivegill ..	3	3	3	3	—
Total ..	70	56 (80%)	58 (82.8%)	55 (98.2%)	1 (1.8%)
					—

Results of Mantoux Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination for Children in 13/14 Year Age Group (1942). 31st December, 1956.

Penrith Rural District Schools Visited.	No. of children Mantoux tested.	No. absent after first Mantoux test.	No. found to be Mantoux Negative.	No. found to be Mantoux Positive.	No. given B.C.G. Vaccination.	No. Positive to post B.C.G. test.	No. Negative to post B.C.G. test.	No. who did not have post B.C.G. test.	Reason why post B.C.G. test was not given.
Mungrisdale ..	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Matterdale ..	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Greystoke ..	3	—	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
Newbiggin ..	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Penruddock ..	5	—	3	2	3	3	—	—	—
Lazonby ..	22	—	16	6	16	16	—	—	—
Culgaith ..	9	—	9	—	9	9	—	—	—
Calthwaite ..	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
High Hesketh ..	10	—	8	2	8	8	—	—	—
Ivegill ..	3	—	2	1	2	2	—	—	—
Total ..	58	—	45 (77.5%)	13 (22.4%)	45 (77.6%)	45 (100%)	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of above Act. During the year, however, six elderly people were reported to me as in possible need of care and attention. All were visited and three were subsequently removed to appropriate Hospital or Home. The others were kept under supervision by regular visitation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am obliged to Mr. J. A. SEDGWICK, Surveyor and Public Health Officer, for the following report:—

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1956 as follows:—

Water Supplies.

The Council have not augmented their supplies in any way since the last report was presented. The Council have an extensive system of water mains throughout the whole of their area, the majority of the houses therein being supplied from the public service mains with certain exceptions, mainly in the Watermillock and Threlkeld areas (where many premises are adequately served by private springs, supplying water of good quality), and the Staffield area, where a private piped supply exists to the Staffield Hall Estate.

The Penrith Rural District Council supply water to their area from three major sources, and thirteen small village supplies.

The major sources of supply are:—

- (a) Aira Beck, delivering some 320,000 gallons per day, and supplying eight parishes, covering an area from Matterdale to Hesket. Water is obtained from a spring intake on Aira Beck, at an altitude of 1,500 feet O.D. This water flows through the Crookwath Filtration Works, where

purification takes place. The treatment plant consists of four Paterson type pressure filters, each filter being capable of dealing with up to 125,000 gallons per day. In addition to pressure filtration, chlorination takes place. From the filtration works, water is delivered into the Council's reservoirs at Berrier (50,000 gallons), High Larches (50,000 gallons), Hewer Hill (500,000 gallons), and Brownrigg (90,000 gallons).

- (b) Bullfell Supply, where water is obtained from a number of springs at an altitude of 1,200 feet O.D. above Mungrisdale. This is a water of exceptional purity, and, apart from simple screening, no treatment whatsoever is required. Normally, the yield from these Springs is in the region of 200,000 gallons per day, but, after dry weather, the flow reduces to 100,000 gallons per day, leaving a deficit of some 100,000 gallons per day to be met from the other two sources. This supply is closely linked with the Aira Beck supply, water being fed into the reservoirs at High Larches, Berrier, and Hewer Hill. In addition this source supplies water into the Mungrisdale and Threlkeld Parishes.
- (c) Clint Supply, where water is obtained from a series of springs at an altitude of 1,144 feet, above Scalehouses, Renwick. This water is delivered into a reservoir at Ruckcroft, near Ainstable, and from there feeds a portion of the Parish of Hesket. The average daily flow into Ruckcroft is some 60,000 gallons per day. Unfortunately, the Clint Supply is seriously affected by weather conditions, and a summer delivery into Ruckcroft reservoir of only 26,000 gallons is often experienced. This has the effect of seriously affecting the supply in the high lying parts of Hesket Parish, particularly High Hesket. In order to maintain a supply in that particular village, the feeding area of Hewer Hill reservoir has to be extended. This results in the water level in Hewer Hill reservoir dropping, and this again has an adverse effect on High Larches reservoir. If the augmentation from Hewer Hill has to continue for some weeks, a general shortage throughout the whole of the central portion of the Rural Area becomes apparent. This is a most unsatisfactory situation, and it is becoming more serious yearly, as the

demand for water increases, mainly because of improved dairying methods, the erection of new houses, and the modernisation of existing dwelling-houses. In order to remedy this position, additional sources of water on the eastern side of the area have been sought, and the Council have decided to augment the supply into Ruckcroft reservoir by a pumping scheme from the Dale Springs, near Ainstable, where up to 120,000 gallons per day can be obtained.

Plans for this scheme have been prepared and are now with the Ministry for consent "in principle". If such a scheme can be carried out, not only Hesketh Parish will benefit, but the heavy burden put upon the other two major sources of supply will be considerably eased, and a much more satisfactory general supply system maintained. I am personally of the opinion, that (apart from any colossal increase in the demand for water for industrial purposes) this scheme will meet the needs of the area for many years to come.

Waste Water Detection.

The water distribution system throughout the area is such that in certain areas even the slightest leakage or wastage of water is sufficient to have an adverse effect on supplies in the high lying areas, and, consequently, it is essential to maintain waste detection action at a very high level. Regular inspections and tests are made throughout the area, and it can be said that there is practically no water wasting in the area at all.

Water Consumption.

From the following detailed table it will be seen that the majority of houses in the area enjoy the benefits of a piped water supply, indicating that out of a total of 3,591 occupied houses, 3,262 are in receipt of a piped water supply from the Council's mains:—

Parish	Population	No of Houses	No of Houses Supplied		Population Supplied		Agricultural Meters Fixed	
			(a) Direct	(b) Standpipe	(a) Direct	(b) Standpipe		
Ainstable ..	483	158	138	3	433	8	27	
Castle Sowerby ..	409	104	101	-	406	-	54	
Catterlen ..	225	91	91	-	225	-	15	
Culgaith ..	664	210	210	-	664	-	27	
Dacre ..	935	310	304	-	875	-	53	
Glassonby ..	320	97	90	-	296	-	24	
Gt. Salkeld ..	366	116	112	-	346	-	17	
Greystoke ..	505	163	158	-	475	-	23	
Hesket ..	2055	601	551	2	1960	6	131	
Hunsonby ..	368	137	136	1	368	1	23	
Hutton ..	306	95	91	-	290	-	22	
Kirkoswald ..	777	254	197	3	753	5	29	
Langwathby ..	572	186	180	2	548	4	21	
Lazonby ..	645	206	201	-	595	-	21	
Matterdale ..	581	191	102	-	272	-	21	
Mungrisdale ..	368	100	79	-	280	-	34	
Ousby ..	356	118	111	-	336	-	17	
Skelton ..	985	274	265	-	938	-	91	
Threlkeld ..	560	180	145	-	420	-	1	
Total ..	11480	3591	3262	11	10480	24	651	

The average daily consumption for all purposes (including agricultural demands) is in the neighbourhood of 600,000 gallons per day. This is not an unduly large consumption with regard to the extensive dairy farming carried on in the area. More than 650 farms now have a metered supply, and this has resulted in a considerable saving of water due to the prevention of avoidable waste. In addition farmers are constantly urged to re-adjust their apparatus and distribution systems in order that milk cooling water can be utilised a second time. I also advise farmers, where a supply of electricity is available, that it is in their own interests to instal refrigerated cooling plants, both from the point of view of more satisfactory cooling in hot weather, and also from the water saving angle.

Sewerage.

No progress has been made with any of the Council's major schemes for new sewage disposal works, and I again have to report the most unsatisfactory state of affairs at High Hesket, and Skirwith (where no sewage schemes of any kind exist), and at Low Hesket, Skelton, Lazonby, Kirkoswald, Armathwaite, and Motherby (where the existing works are obsolete and overloaded, and most unsatisfactory effluents are being discharged into the local streams).

So far as High Hesket is concerned, it is hoped that some real progress will be made during the forthcoming year, and that the other schemes will go ahead.

Refuse Collection.

There has been no change in the manner of refuse collection since last year. Briefly a fortnightly collection is made throughout all but the most isolated parts of the area. Complaints are occasionally received from householders who should have their refuse collected on the statutory holidays and consequently have to keep their refuse for a fortnight. This is unfortunate but, without duplicating the service, the Council are unable to do anything about it.

Careful inspections are made of all of the Council's tips and rodent infestations are dealt with immediately.

Schools.

Visits of inspection are made to all schools in the area in connection with the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are fifty-seven factories registered in the area, all of which are periodically inspected to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

All food premises in the area are under constant supervision and no effort is spared to ensure that all handlers of food maintain a proper standard of hygiene.

On the 1st July, 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation, and particular attention of those members of the public engaged in food handling, and the owners of food premises, were directed to the provision of an adequate water supply, suitable sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, etc. A pamphlet setting out the requirements of the Regulations was sent out to the occupiers of all shops affected by the regulations, and inspections are being made of all premises in the area.

Among various items of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were the following:—

- 42 tins of various chopped meats.
- 135 tins of various fruits.
- 23 tins of garden peas.
- 29 tins of evaporated milk.
- 22 tins of luncheon meats.
- 5 tins of creamed rice.

Slaughterhouses.

The Council have licensed five slaughterhouses in the area, and all are in constant use.

The quality of meat killed has been of the highest standard and no evidence of a tuberculous infection was discovered.

Meat inspection is carried out at all slaughterhouses in the area, and I am happy to report that I have had nothing but the closest co-operation and help from all the butchers concerned.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Following the notification of infectious disease, terminal disinfection is carried out where necessary. As the incidence of infectious disease is exceptionally low, little of such work has been carried out, nor has it been necessary to deal with any filthy or verminous premises, or bed bug infestations.

Ice Cream.

In the area there is only one producer of ice cream whose premises are regularly inspected, and samples of his products taken. Proprietary brands of ice cream are retailed at many shops in the area, and samples are also regularly taken from these places. On the whole no complaint can be made as to the purity of the ice cream sold.

Council Houses.

Progress continues to be made in the erection of Council houses in the area, and since the end of the last war houses have been erected by the Council on the undermentioned sites:—

Newton Reigny ..	2	Hutton End	2
Ivegill	4	Sowerby Row	2
Dockray	2	Ainstable	8
Langwathby ..	12	Low Braithwaite ..	2
Lazonby	8	Pallet Hill	2
Blencarn	4	Catterlen	6
Culgaith	14	Skirwith	8
Hunsonby	14	Glassonby	4
Newbiggin	16	Renwick	4
Stainton	16	Auldby	2
Low Hesket ..	6	Low Plains	4
Calthwaite ..	8	Armathwaite	4
Edenhall	4	Mellguards	2
Greystoke	22	Skelton	6
Great Salkeld ..	4	Aikbank	4
Howes	2	Melmerby	6
Ousby	8	Threlkeld	18
Salkeld Dykes ..	4	Little Salkeld	16
Blencowe	4	Gamblesby	4
Plumpton	12	Kirkland	2
Dacre	2	Kirkoswald	18
Penruddock ..	2		
		Total	294

During the War 16 houses were erected by the Council as under:—

Thiefside ..	4	Highbankhill	4
Culgaith ..	4	Newton Reigny ..	2
		Low Hesket ..	2
		Total ..	16

Prior to the War the Council had erected houses in various parts of the area as under:—

Clickem ..	4	Hutton End ..	2
Catterlen ..	2	Kirkoswald ..	6
Culgaith ..	4	Langwathby ..	6
Dacre ..	2	Lazonby ..	8
Plumpton ..	3	Threlkeld ..	6
Stainton ..	6	Calthwaite ..	3
Southwaite ..	2	Low Hesket ..	4
Hunsonby ..	5		
		Total ..	63

In all the Council have now completed 373 houses, and at the end of the year 13 houses were in various stages of erection.

Eighty-five houses have been completed by private enterprise since the war, including eight during the present year.

Housing Improvement Grants.

The Council are doing all in their power to encourage owners of sub-standard property to bring them up to standard with the aid of improvement grants under the 1949 Housing Act, and much of my time is spent in advising prospective applicants as to the necessary requirements with which they must comply. During the year 43 schemes had been approved involving the improvement of 48 houses and 4 conversions of other buildings.

Since the Act came into operation 117 applications have been received by the Council involving 141 separate dwelling-houses. Eleven of these applications were subsequently cancelled or disapproved. At the end of the year all works had been completed satisfactorily in respect of 92 of these applications.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Inspections Made.

Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Petrol Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Carbide Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Works in progress	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	514
New Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	346
General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	583
Inspections re complaints received			..	..	..	..	..	94
Inspections under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	862
Inspections of Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	417

Works Carried Out.

Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
New Spouting fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Air drains fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Floor relaid, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Scullery sinks trapped	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Water closets constructed		..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Sewers and Drains extended		..	..	..	..	..	..	72
New Septic Tanks built	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Water Supplies carried to houses		..	..	..	..	..	..	25
New Baths fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
New Houses completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Houses altered or repaired		..	..	..	..	..	..	64
New Windows fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
New Ceilings put up or repaired		..	..	..	..	..	..	32
New Sinks fitted to houses		..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Obstructed Drains cleansed		..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122

Yours faithfully,

J. A. SEDGWICK.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

